

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

An RCE is being filed herewith. Entry of the unentered amendment filed on January 11, 2010 is respectfully requested.

Claim 69 has been amended to recite that the pivoting of the slit shaped nozzle is from a certain angle to another angle about an axis perpendicular to the substrate in the region of a corner of the substrate where a first edge of the substrate joins another edge of the substrate, as well as the inherent functional result that the width of the removed coating during relative movement between the plasma and substrate in two directions parallel to the two edges of the substrate corresponds to the width of the slit shaped nozzle in a direction perpendicular to a respective one of the two directions parallel to the edges of the substrate. Basis for this is present in the paragraph bridging pp. 16-17 of the specification.

Applicants had previously explained that Claim 67 recites that the relative movement between the slit shaped nozzle and the substrate removes a coating from the substrate over a width/area determined by the angle of orientation of the slit shaped nozzle relative to the direction of relative movement, i.e., the area of coating removal for a slit shaped nozzle set at a certain angle is dependent on the orientation of the elongation of the slit relative to the direction of linear relative movement. Applicants had also explained that the effective width of the trench in Carr would not be changed by the direction of the relative movement of the nozzle in Carr, even if the torch were to have a slit shaped nozzle, because the torch is spun during the relative movement of the torch.

According to the Advisory Action, these arguments were not commensurate with the scope of Claim 67, because Claim 67 did not recite that the width of the trench produced by the plasma is changed. This is respectfully traversed because both Claim 67 and the arguments are directed to the area of coating removal for a slit shaped nozzle “set” at a

certain angle being dependent on the orientation of the elongation of the slit relative to the direction of linear relative movement with respect to the substrate; the recitation of a “change” in the width of the trench or the angle of the slit shaped nozzle is not necessary to set forth this difference.

That is, Claim 67 recites in part the step of directing a plasma onto a region of the surface of the substrate from which a coating is to be removed with at least one slit shaped nozzle “set” such that the direction of elongation of the slit has a “certain orientation direction on the surface of the substrate,” and the step of producing a linear relative movement in a certain direction between the at least one slit shaped nozzle and the substrate “to thereby remove a coating from the substrate over a width/area determined by an angle of the certain orientation of the least one of the slit shaped nozzles relative to the certain direction of the relative movement.” In this case, Claim 67 recites a slit shaped nozzle “set” such that the direction of elongation of the slit has a certain orientation direction on the surface of the substrate, which “set” orientation direction of the slit defines the width of the removed coating during relative movement of the nozzle with the substrate. Applicants had argued that it is because the angle of the *rotating* nozzle of Carr is not “set” that the effective width of the trench is not determined by the direction of the relative movement of the nozzle therein. The substance of this argument has not been traversed, and Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 67 defines over the cited prior art for the reasons set forth in the amendment filed on January 11, 2010.

Moreover, the Advisory Action did not address the recitation in Claim 68 of pivoting a row of nozzles, or a slit shaped nozzle, about an axis perpendicular to the substrate in the region of a corner of the substrate, before producing a relative movement between the plasma and substrate parallel to another edge of the substrate. Applicants had pointed out on pp. 8-10 of the prior response that Siniaguine et al merely discusses the angle of the plasma jet to

the substrate surface. The substance of this argument also has not been traversed, and Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 68 also defines over the cited prior art for the reasons set forth in the amendment filed on January 11, 2010.

Claim 69 did, in fact, recite the step that produces a “change” in the width of the trench, i.e., pivoting the slit shaped nozzle about an axis perpendicular to the substrate in the region of a corner of the substrate. Moreover, in response to the comment in the Advisory Action, Claim 69 has now been amended to further recite the function of this pivoting step: that the width of the removed coating during relative movement between the plasma and substrate in two directions parallel to the two edges of the substrate corresponds to the width of the slit shaped nozzle in a direction perpendicular to a respective one of the two directions parallel to the edges of the substrate. Therefore, Claim 69 also defines over the cited prior art.

Applicants therefore believe that the present application is in a condition for allowance and respectfully solicit an early notice of allowability.

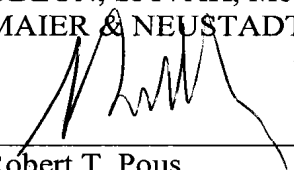
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